

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 /074 W
-----100697 282332Z /64

O 281603Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7192
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 851

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDEV, WA, SF
SUBJ: NAMIBIA: PROPOSED STATEMENT ON WALVIS BAY

REF: STATE 107556

1. FOLLOWING IS THE AGREED REPORT BY THE CAPE TOWN FIVE
ON THE PROPOSED WESTERN STATEMENT ON WALVIS BAY AND THE
LIKELY SAG REACTION:

QUOTE:

2. THE CAPE TOWN FIVE MET TWICE TODAY (APRIL 28) TO
DISCUSS THE ADVISABILITY OF THE FIVE MAKING STATEMENTS
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TO CLARIFY THEIR POSITION OVER THE FUTURE OF WALVIS BAY.

3. FOLLOWING THE CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE CANADIAN
AMBASSADOR AND VAN HEERDEN, SUMMERHAYES (UK) AND
TAYLOR (US) HAD A FURTHER DISCUSSION WITH HIM TODAY AT A
ROUTINE LUNCHEON WHICH HAD BEEN PREVIOUSLY ARRANGED.
THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR ALSO HAD A GENERAL CONVERSATION

WITH MINISTER BOTHA THIS MORNING AT WHICH THEY REVIEWED THE PRESENT GENERAL POSITION WITHOUT SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO WALVIS BAY.

4. FROM THESE MEETINGS AND OUR OWN CONSIDERATION OF THE MATTER, WE HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT STATEMENTS, BROADLY ON THE LINES OF THE LANGUAGE DISCUSSED BY MR. VANCE IN LAGOS, COULD BE ACQUIESCED IN BY THE SOUTH AFRICANS SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING PROVISOS:

(A) WE SHOULD AVOID ANY IMPLICATION OF CHALLENGING THE SAG'S LEGAL POSITION IN REGARD TO WALVIS BAY;
(B) WE SHOULD MAKE CLEAR IN OUR STATEMENTS THAT THEY ARE NOT PART OF THE PROPOSAL WHICH HAS BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT (BOTH BOTHA AND VAN HEERDEN EMPHASIZED THAT ANY MODIFICATION OF THE PROPOSAL WOULD CREATE ENORMOUS PROBLEMS HERE);
(C) ANY SUCH STATEMENT SHOULD BE MADE IN THE CONTEXT OF SWAPO ACQUIESCENCE IN THE PROPOSAL AS A WHOLE.
(D) SEPARATE STATEMENTS MAKING THESE POINTS WOULD BE PREFERABLE TO A JOINT STATEMENT.

5. ATTENTION COULD BE DRAWN TO THE FACT THAT, IN ANSWER TO A PRESS INQUIRY ON 25 APRIL AFTER HIS ANNOUNCEMENT IN PARLIAMENT, MR. VORSTER IS REPORTED AS SAYING THAT THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVT WOULD BE WILLING TO NEGOTIATE THE FUTURE OF WALVIS BAY WITH THE CONFIDENTIAL

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INDEPENDENT GOVT OF NAMIBIA (CAPE TOWN 848). IT IS ALSO SIGNIFICANT THAT THE MAIN POLITICAL PARTIES IN SOUTH WEST AFRICA HAVE MADE CLEAR THAT THEY WISH WALVIS BAY INCORPORATED AS PART OF THE NEW COUNTRY AFTER INDEPENDENCE.

6. AS SOON AS A DECISION IS MADE TO MAKE SUCH A STATEMENT, IT WILL BE ESSENTIAL TO INFORM FOURIE. UNQUOTE.

7. EMBASSY COMMENT: THE BRITISH AND GERMAN AMBASSADORS AND POSSIBLY THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR WILL COMMENT TO THEIR GOVTS THAT THEY ARE UNCOMFORTABLE WITH THE LANGUAGE OF THE FINAL PARAGRAPH OF THE LAGOS FORMULATION AS TOO CLOSE TO PRESCRIBING THE OUTCOME OF NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE PARTIES ON WALVIS BAY AND THEREFORE POSSIBLE CAUSE FOR UNHELPFUL REACTION BY THE SAG. WHILE CONCEDING TO US THAT THE LAGOS FORMULATION MAY BE NECESSARY, THEY WILL NEVERTHELESS PROPOSE FOR CONSIDERATION LANGUAGE ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES: WE BELIEVE THE PARTIES IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD BE GUIDED BY THE ECONOMIC, GEOGRAPHIC, POLITICAL, ETHNIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE CONSIDERATIONS OUTLINED ABOVE. (THE

REMAINDER OF THE LAST PARAGRAPH OF THE LAGOS FORMULATION
WOULD BE DELETED.)
NELSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, NEGOTIATIONS, WALVIS BAY
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978CAPET00851
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780183-0076
Format: TEL
From: CAPE TOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978046/aaaaaetl.tel
Line Count: 119
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 226fa1b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 107556
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2977999
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NAMIBIA: PROPOSED STATEMENT ON WALVIS BAY
TAGS: PDEV, WA, SF, US, UK, FR
To: STATE USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/226fa1b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014